

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 17294 220417Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 BIB-01 DHA-05 /077 W

-----087822 222017Z /70

R 211845Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7962

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 17294

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING LEAVES
LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY INTACT

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY MET IN ROME ON OCTOBER 18-21. THE SESSION SHOWED PARTY SECRETARY CRAXI TO BE IN CONTROL, WITH CRAXI'S PROPOSAL TO HOLD A PARTY CONGRESS IN MARCH GAINING THE SUPPORT OF ALMOST ALL MEMBERS. CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE IN BROAD AGREEMENT THAT THE SOCIALIST PARTY SHOULD FOLLOW AN INDEPENDENT COURSE, ALIGNING ITSELF NEITHER WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS NOR THE COMMUNISTS. BUT THE PARTY'S HOPELESS FACTIONALISM WAS CLEARLY EXPOSED AND IS AN UNFAVORABLE AUGURY FOR THE PARTY'S FUTURE IN ITALIAN POLITICS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE 170 MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 17294 220417Z

CONCLUDED A THREE-DAY MEETING HERE YESTERDAY WITH AGREEMENT TO CONVENE A PARTY CONGRESS IN MARCH. THE PROPOSAL TO HOLD THE CONGRESS WAS MADE BY PARTY SECRETARY CRAXI AS A WAY OF FOSTERING THE IMPRESSION

OF PARTY RENEWAL. MANCINI LED THE OPPOSITION TO CRAXI AND CRITICIZED THE CONVENING OF A PARTY CONGRESS ON THE GROUND THAT THE PARTY SECRETARY HAD ARROGATED TO HIMSELF AUTHORITY THAT IS NOT HIS, WAS

RUNNING BLIND AND WOULD HAVE NOTHING CONCRETE TO DISCUSS AT THE PROPOSED MEETING. IN THE END, HOWEVER, MANCINI AND ALL BUT FOUR MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (ACHILLE, CODIGNOLA, LEON AND TAMBURRANO) WENT ALONG WITH THE PROPOSAL.

2. CRAXI'S VIEW THAT THE PARTY SHOULD FOLLOW AN AUTONOMOUS COURSE-- UNALIGNED WITH EITHER THE COMMUNISTS OR THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS-- WAS WIDELY SHARED AT THE SESSION. THE PARTY SECRETARY OPENED THE SESSION WITH A SHARP ATTACK ON THE GOVERNMENT AND MADE A GREAT POINT OF THE FACT THAT THE SOCIALISTS HAD OPPOSED ANDREOTTI MORE THAN ANY OF THE OTHER FIVE ABSTAINING PARTIES, REFUSING SUPPORT TO 80PERCENT-85PERCENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS. DURING THE DISCUSSION, A RETURN TO A CENTER LEFT GOVERNMENT WAS RULED OUT BY ALL SPEAKERS ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME WHO DECLARED THEY WOULD NOT OPPOSE A COALITION WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY IN WHICH THE COMMUNISTS ALSO PARTICIPATED. MANCINI, AGAIN, TOOK A MARGINALLY DISSIDENT VIEW BY SUGGESTING THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (WITHOUT INCLUDING THE PCI) SHOULD NOT BE COMPLETELY EXCLUDED. IN A VOTE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION, CRAXI'S POSITION--SUMMED UP IN HIS SLOGAN "NO GUARANTEES, NO ALLIANCES"--WAS ACCEPTED BY ALL BUT MANCINI AND HIS FACTION AND ACHILLE, CODIGNOLA, LEON AND TAMBURRANO.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 17294 220417Z

3. THE SESSION ESCHEWED ANY SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF A NEW PARTY PROGRAM, A DRAFT OF WHICH HAS BEEN CIRCULATING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, AND DUCKED THE QUESTION OF NEXT YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, NENNI ALONE COMMENTING THAT A SOCIALIST CONDidATURE SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED.

4. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING WAS OTHERWISE CHARACTERIZED BY THE EXTRAVAGANT FACTIONAL SPARING THAT IS AN INEVITABLE RESULT OF THE INTELLECTUAL INDEPENDENCE OF SOCIALISTS, PARTICULARLY IN ITALY. THE MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT IN THIS REGARD WAS THE BEHAVIOR OF MANCINI. ONE OF THE STRONGEST SUPPORTERS OF CRAXI WHEN THE LATTER OUSTED DE MARTINO FROM THE PARTY SECRETARYSHIP, MANCINI HAS NOW BECOME CRAXI'S MOST OPEN OPPONENT. ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT OF INTEREST IS THE EMERGENCE OF ACHILLI AS HEAD OF A "NEW LEFT," A GROUP TO THE LEFT OF LOMBARDI AND ONE MOST STRONGLY FAVORING A SOCIALIST COALITION WITH THE COMMUNISTS. THERE HAD BEEN SPECULATION PRIOR TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING THAT MANCA WOULD SEEK TO FORM A COALITION TO BRING DOWN CRAXI AND, WITH DE MARTINO'S SUPPORT, REPLACE HIM AS PARTY SECRETARY, THE ATTEMPT WAS NEVER MOUNTED; MANCA AVOIDED A SHOWDOWN, AS ONE NEWSPAPER PUT IT, "FOR NOW." BUT

CRAXI'S POSITION, BASED AS IT IS ON A COALITION WITH THE PARTY LEFT,
IS NOT ENTIRELY FIRM AND DISAPPOINTMENT WITH HIM INSIDE PARTY RANKS M
AY GROW.

5. IN SUM, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION SHOWED CRAXI FACES
CLEAR OPPOSITION BUT THAT HE IS FOR THE MOMENT IN CONTROL. THE
POICY OF AUTONOMY ENJOYS WIDE SUPPORT IN THE PARTY, IF ONLY AS THE
LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR OF THE MEMBERS'S VIEWS. HOWEVER, THIS VERY
NON-ALIGNMENT LEAVES THE PARTY WITH LITTLE OR NOTHING IN THE WAY OF
PROFILE, PROGRAM OR POLITICAL PIZZAZZ. GARDNER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIALISM, PARTY STRENGTH, PARTY MEETINGS, CENTRAL COMMITTEE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME17294
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770390-0287
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771033/aaaabbwo.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 13b19c29-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 829953
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOCIALIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING LEAVES LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY INTACT BEGIN SUMMARY: THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIA
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/13b19c29-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009